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CONSUMER TIME

R-8

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Produced by Consumers' Counsel Division of the Department of Agriculture,
and presented in cooperation with Defense and Non-Defense Agencies
of the United States Government working for consumers.

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1. ANNOUNCER: This is CONSUMER TIME.
2. SOUND: CASH REGISTER - CLOSE DRAWER
3. NANCY: That's your money buying food.
4. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
5. CARL: That's your money paying for a home.
6. SOUND: CASH REGISTER
7. NANCY: That's your money buying clothes and the thousands
of other things you need.
8. CARL: That's you . . paying for these things . . money out
of your pockets.
9. SOUND: CASH REGISTER - CLOSE DRAWER
10. MILES: How can we save money on our automobile?
11. NANCY: How can we make our electric appliances last longer?

12. ANNOUNCER: CONSUMER TIME today brings you the answers to these questions. This program is produced by your Consumers' Counsel in the Department of Agriculture, and is presented in cooperation with Defense and Non-Defense agencies of the United States Government working for consumers.

And here is your Consumers' Counsel, Donald Montgomery.

13. MONTGOMERY: Thank you, , and hello, everyone. Yes, we have the answers to your consumer questions today. Here is Mrs. Harry Miles, mother of our consumer family, to ask about the things you would ask about if you were here.

14. MILES: Are we ready to start, Mr. Montgomery?

15. MONTGOMERY: Sure are. My two consumer reporters are rarin' to go. Here they are, Nancy and Carl.

16. MILES: Who starts us off today?

17. NANCY: My turn to be first, Mrs. Miles.

18. MILES: All right. And what are you going to tell us about?

19. NANCY: I'm going to tell you how to make your electrical appliances last longer.

20. MILES: Electrical appliances?
21. NANCY: Yes, some of them . . your washing machine,
 your vacuum cleaner, your iron.
22. MILES: Fine. A couple of mornings ago my daughter
 Barbara was ironing some napkins out in the
 kitchen. (FADE) Everything seemed to go along
 all right, when . . .
- (PAUSE)
23. BARBARA: Mother, I'm having the worst time with this iron.
24. MILES: Why, what's the matter with it, honey?
25. BARBARA: I don't know . . it sticks so.
26. MILES: I hope there's nothing very wrong with it . .
 'cause we can't afford to buy a new one.
27. BARBARA: See . . when I try to push it . . it sticks . .
28. MILES: Hold it up so I can see the bottom of it.
29. BARBARA: There . .
30. MILES: Oh, I see. I was just ironing that blouse of yours
 . . the one we starched.
31. BARBARA: Yes.

32. MILES: And some of the starch is stuck on the bottom of the iron.

33. BARBARA: Can I scrape it off?

34. MILES: Mercy no, child. You'll ruin the iron.

(PAUSE)

35. NANCY: I hope Barbara didn't scrape it off, Mrs. Miles.

36. MILES: No, she didn't.

37. NANCY: Well, it's a good thing . . . because, just as you said, you might have damaged the bottom of the iron.

38. MILES: I wasn't sure just why, but I'm glad I did say that. But tell me, Nancy, what will take starch off best?

39. NANCY: You can get that starch off the bottom of the iron with whiting . . . that's a very fine abrasive . . . or if it is really stuck hard . . . try some very, very fine steel wool.

40. MILES: That's a good thing to know, Nancy.

41. NANCY: Here are a couple more tips about taking care of your iron. Don't let it get overheated.

42. MILES: Mine has one of those thermostats or temperature controls on it . . will it get overheated?
43. NANCY: No, it's not likely to . . but many irons don't have that control . . and they'll last a lot longer if you pull the plug out before they get too hot.
44. MILES: I see.
49. NANCY: Now for a couple of hints about taking care of your washing machine.
50. MILES: It's a good idea to know all these things right now, isn't it, Nancy?
51. NANCY: Unhunh . . because you can help with Defense by making the ones you have last longer.

52. MILES: Besides it's just plain common sense . . and easier on the pocketbook.
53. NANCY: Right you are. Now, about the washing machine . .
54. MILES: Good.
55. NANCY: Oil the machinery according to the manufacturer's directions. If you've lost those directions . . call the dealer and get his advice.
56. MILES: I think I still have my set of directions.
57. NANCY: Good. But be careful . . don't fuss around the machinery when the cord is plugged in.
58. MILES: That's good advice. But what about stains, Nancy . . my machine is all stained inside.
59. NANCY: The experts in the Bureau of Home Economics . . they're the ones who give us these hints . . They say to use a little whiting . . the same as on the bottom of your iron . . or if they are bad stains . . try a little hot vinegar.
60. MILES: Whiting first . . and if that doesn't work, hot vinegar.

6. NANCY: That's it. Another rule about washing machines is to keep them clean. After using the machine, rinse it thoroughly with hot water . . let it run for a short time . . drain the water and dry it out.
62. MILES: How can I keep the legs of the machine from getting rusty?
63. NANCY: Rub them once in a while with oil.
64. MILES: I see.
65. NANCY: Now, there was one more electrical machine I was going to tell you about.
66. MILES: Which is that?
67. NANCY: Vacuum cleaners.
68. MILES: Fine.
69. NANCY: First, the bag that catches the dirt should be kept clean at all times. That helps the cleaner to work well. You see, if the bag or filter is all clogged up with dust . . the air can't get through and the cleaner doesn't suck up any more dirt.
70. MILES: Yes, I can see that.

71. NANCY: Second rule is to keep the nozzle adjusted at the proper height above the surface of the rugs.
72. MILES: How can you do that?
73. NANCY: Well, some of the newer models do it automatically, and you don't have to worry about it. But on some of them, you do.
74. MILES: How?
75. NANCY: Put a dime on the rug about 6 inches in front of the nozzle. Turn the machine on, and adjust the height . . . there's a little screw you turn . . . until the dime starts to dance around and moves toward the machine.
76. MILES: Then it's set right?
77. NANCY: Yes. And of course, you should keep the brushes free from hair and threads. And never pick up metal objects like tacks or pins, or coins with the machine. You can cause some damage that way.
78. MILES: What about oiling the machine?
79. NANCY: Same advice as for the washing machine. Follow the manufacturer's directions.

80. MILES: I see. Well, Nancy, thanks for all your tips about how to take care of some of our household machinery so it will last longer.

All right, Carl, I guess it's your turn to be helpful today.

81. CARL: I'm all set, Mrs. Miles.

82. MILES: You're going to give us some rules about how we can take care of our cars, aren't you?

83. CARL: Right.

84. MILES: A lot of people will be anxious to hear about it . . . just like I am. I took our car down to the garage the other day. After the mechanic looked it over, (FADE) I called Harry, my husband, on the phone

(PAUSE)

85. MILES: Hello, hello . . . Harry? . . . Yes, dear, I'm down at the garage . . . Yes . . . the mechanic says the car's using way too much gas and too much oil. . . . Yes, that's what he said, too No, it won't cost so much, but he said it would be better to do it now than to pay a bigger bill later on All right, dear, I'll tell him to go ahead and fix it, shall I? . . . Yes, I know, we can't afford to waste gasoline or oil these days . . .

(PAUSE)

86. MILES: (FADING ON) Was that what we should have done, Carl?

87. CARL: Certainly was, Mrs. Miles. That's just one of the things. I have a whole bunch of suggestions for you, though, and for everyone else who owns and drives a car.

88. MILES: That's fine.

89. CARL: It's really part of our defense program, and these suggestions come from the Consumer Division in Defense. They say that everyone can help in defense by taking care of their cars . . . so they'll last longer. And they say not to buy a new car unless you need it badly.

90. MILES: We're not in the market for a new car, anyway.

91. CARL: And they say most of all to drive and take care of your car so you don't waste gasoline, oil, or tires.

92. MILES: What are some of their suggestions, Carl?

93. CARL: The most important one of all is just plain common sense.

94. MILES: What is it?

95. CARL: Don't drive at high speed at any time.
96. MILES: Yes, that is just plain common sense . . lots of accidents are caused by fast driving.
97. CARL: Yes, that is part of the picture, but high speed driving wears out the car faster . . uses up almost twice as much rubber on your tires . . twice as much gas, and four or five times as much oil.
98. MILES: Goodness gracious! That means a tremendous waste . .
99. CARL: Right . . not only wastes your money, but it wastes products that are needed for defense.
100. MILES: So the biggest suggestion is just not to drive fast at any time.
101. CARL: Exactly.
102. MILES: Carl, how could I go about making my car last longer and, well, give better service for the money?
103. CARL: I'm going to have to run over those points in a little bit of a hurry . . but we do have a Consumer Tips card for you . . . I'll tell you about it in a few seconds.
104. MILES: All right.

105. CARL: These are the rules for taking care of your car. First, keep it in a garage if you can. Second, grease it every thousand miles. Third, give it a coat of wax two to four times a year.
106. MILES: Poor Harry!
107. CARL: Well, it's worth it. Then, fourth, clean out the air filter on the carburetor every five thousand miles, or more often if you drive on dusty roads.
108. MILES: Is that all?
109. CARL: One more . . . take care of minor mechanical troubles before they get worse and cost more money.
112. MILES: Carl, I've been reading about things to do to get longer wear out of tires. What do you have to suggest?
113. CARL: Once again, five rules . . . Keep plenty of air in your tires. It's better to have a pound or two over than a little under the amount that is recommended.
114. MILES: I see.

115. CARL: Keep your front wheels properly aligned.
116. MILES: Some of these mechanical things don't mean very much to me, Carl, although I imagine Harry will know what you mean.
117. CARL: That's why we have the Consumer Tips card . . . so you can show it to the man in your family . . if he's the one who takes care of the car.
118. MILES: All right . . . and what's the third rule about tires?
119. CARL: Protect them against bruises . . you know, curbs and holes.
120. MILES: Yes.
121. CARL: Start and stop your car slowly.
122. MILES: No skidding to sudden stops.
123. CARL: Right, and no racing starts.
124. MILES: And last?
125. CARL: Tires wear out much more quickly in hot weather than they do in cold, and it helps to save them if you drive slowly.

126. MILES: Those are the rules for taking care of tires so they'll last longer.
127. CARL: Yes. And here are five rules for getting the most out of the gasolene you buy . . .
128. MILES: I wish I'd known all these things long ago.
129. CARL: Well, it's never too late to start.
130. MILES: I know it. What's your first rule?
131. CARL: Keep the spark advanced to give the most efficient use of the gasolene. That's a job for a mechanic in most cases . . and he'll know how to make the adjustment.
132. MILES: Yes, I know I don't know much about it.
133. CARL: Second . . keep the carburetor properly adjusted.
134. MILES: Also a mechanic's job.
135. CARL: Usually, yes. Third, use the choke sparingly. No more than you absolutely have to.
136. MILES: That's something for every driver to remember.
137. CARL: Right. And another thing for the driver . . start and stop slowly. Saves a lot of gas.
138. MILES: That's four.

139. CARL: And rule five is to shift into high as quickly
Going at the same speed,
as possible. / your engine uses much less gas in
high than in any other gear . . so get it into
high in a hurry.
140. MILES: I don't know how I'm going to remember all this.
141. CARL: Don't forget our Consumer Tips card.
142. MILES: Oh yes.
143. CARL: And now, just one tip about oil that comes from
the Consumer Division in Defense. It's this . . .
Change your oil seasonally, - twice a year, that is .
If you drive when it's awfully cold or terribly
dusty you might have to change it oftener, of course.
And don't forget the oil filter. If you have one,
check it every 8 to 10 thousand miles.
144. MILES: Carl, I should think everyone in the country who
drives a car ought to have a copy of the Consumer
Tips card on taking care of a car. I know I want
a copy.
145. CARL: We'll be glad to send one to anyone who writes in
for it . . it's absolutely free . . It has all these
rules on it . . . easy enough for anyone to understand
. . and well . . , our announcer, will
tell you how to get a copy in just another minute
or two.

146. MILES: Thanks, Carl, for all your hints. And now it's
time to hear from our Consumers' Counsel,
Donald Montgomery.

(Mr. Montgomery's Remarks)

1. MILES: Thank you, Mr. Montgomery. Well, I see it's time to ring the chimes and announce our new name on the Consumers' Honor Roll.

2. SOUND: NOTE ON CHIMES

3. NANCY: Maine. Women in the Home Demonstration Clubs in the State of Maine go on the Honor Roll today for their consumer project on meat buying.

Stressing home production of meat whenever possible, these women learned many pointers about meat that were new . . different cuts . . food value . . economy cuts . . ways to cook the inexpensive cuts . . any many more.

As one woman said . . "I can really do my own meat buying intelligently now and not always have to depend on price to tell me what is a good piece of meat."

For carrying on an effective program of consumer education, these Home Demonstration Clubs in the State of Maine get Honor Roll mention today.

4. SOUND: NOTE ON CHIMES

5. MILES: Thank you, Nancy. Well, what have you two consumer reporters arranged for next week?

6. CARL: What the experts say we should eat every day.
7. NANCY:
8. MILES: A recommended diet and
for next week's CONSUMER
TIME. All right, , tell us about
those Consumer Tips cards.
9. ANNOUNCER: Gladly, Mrs. Miles. An excellent Consumer Tips
card for you today, consumers. It has all the
suggestions Carl made about how to take care of
your car intelligently . . so it will last longer
and will cost you less money to run . . and also
so you will help save some of the essential products
needed for National Defense. Every car owner in the
country should have a copy of this Consumer Tips
card on automobiles.
- This Consumer Tips card is yours for the asking.
Just send a penny post card to Consumers' Counsel,
Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Give
us your name and address and the call letters of
the station over which you heard this program. Ask
for your free copy of Consumer Tips on Automobiles.

(MORE)

May I repeat that address for you . . . Consumers' Counsel, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. A penny postal is all you need, with your name and address and the call letters of the station over which you heard this program. Consumer Tips on Automobiles will be sent to you free.

Be with us again next Saturday, will you? . . when CONSUMER TIME will again be presented by the Consumers' Counsel in the Department of Agriculture, in cooperation with Defense and Non-Defense agencies of the United States Government working for consumers.

Heard on today's program were Nell Fleming, Nancy Ordway, Frances Adams and Carl Hanson.

CONSUMER TIME has been presented as a Public Service by NBC and the independent radio stations associated with the Red Network of the National Broadcasting Company.

